

Letter from the Board Chair



Dear PPAA Members:

As I write this, we are in the midst of the 2014 mid-term election cycle during which a record 67 statewide and legislative candidates sought and received PPAA's coveted

endorsement. When asked why, one of our candidates summed it up stating, "There is no other endorsement that so clearly defines a candidate's values and so clearly sets him or her apart from their opponent."

Our election strategy has been extremely aggressive and PPAA has assumed a leadership position among the political action committees in this state, providing early endorsement and maximizing resources to the most viable campaigns. Additionally and importantly, we have strengthened our political support staff, thereby allowing candidates direct and ongoing access to PPAA's expertise and guidance.

Whatever the outcome on November 4, 2014, I want to thank our extraordinary slate of endorsed candidates who have been unflinching in their support of Planned Parenthood. I also want to thank you, the members of PPAA. It is only through your high and sustained level of commitment, your advocacy, that PPAA can continue its ongoing efforts to identify, cultivate and support viable political candidates.

Although I am sure we are all experiencing some level of voter fatigue, please remember that the 2016 general election is just around the corner and our work begins now. If you have not already done so, please contribute to PPAA's PAC and continue to support PPAA's *I Stand* events, which are the major source of funds for our political work.

Last, I invite you to become a Planned Parenthood volunteer and experience first-hand the excitement of creating positive change in Arizona.

Your comments, questions and suggestions are always welcome.

Annette Everlove, Chair
Board of Directors
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona

Volunteers Lend a Voice to PPAA Online

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona (PPAA) engages constituents and public servants in many ways and at many levels. One of the key ways advocates are able to engage with decision-makers is through social media.

PPAA's social media and blog is managed by a spectacular volunteer named Anna Christensen from Tucson. She, along with Kelley Karnes, another volunteer who assists with Twitter and Facebook, are part of a cadre of writers who create some of the organization's most meaningful online engagement.

With blog series *Meet Our Candidates* and *Let's Talk Contraception*, as well as timely pieces on politics, health and education, our eight volunteer bloggers invest many hours of their time to make information and important people accessible, helping readers have a better understanding of the science and politics behind reproductive health. We cannot thank them enough for all they do and the profile they give us online.

If you would like to read our blog, visit www.advocatesaz.org or you can also like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

Inspiring Speakers are Highlight of I Stand Events

This year, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona celebrated three successful *I Stand with Planned Parenthood* events in Tucson, Phoenix and Flagstaff. We had nearly 1,500 attendees and raised \$238,000. In addition, we had enough PAC supporters to sustain our Super PAC status in Arizona.

The highlight of all three events were the speakers and awardees. In Phoenix and Tucson, attendees were enlightened by the wider perspective provided by Jodi Jacobson, editor-in-chief of *RH Reality Check*, an online publication that reports on reproductive health issues and news. And, then they were motivated by the passionate speeches from candidates Fred DuVal, Felecia Rotellini, and Terry Goddard. Awardees Kent Burbank and Chad Campbell inspired us with their commitment and fervor.

In Flagstaff, it was speaker Kelli Fryer who emboldened attendees with her passion for peace, justice, freedom and dignity for all. And, DuVal and Rotellini wowed attendees as they did in Phoenix and Tucson with their enthusiasm and drive for women's health issues.

We would like to thank the chairs for each of these events for their commitment and support; we could not have done it without you: in Tucson, Helaine Levy and Jane Ragle; in Phoenix, Lilia Alvarez and Dana Campbell Saylor; and in Flagstaff, Helen Hemmer.

Thank you again to everyone who attended. We look forward to seeing everyone at our 2015 *I Stand* events. Save the dates now for Phoenix, Tucson and Flagstaff. Our Flagstaff dinner will be held on Thursday, April 2, 2015. In Phoenix, join us on April 9, 2015, at the Sheraton Downtown, and in Tucson, join us on April 10, 2015, at the Tucson Convention Center. Watch for news about events in our locations across the state.